

Recovery Times

Saturday, September 10, 2005

Important Phone Numbers

FEMA
1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
1-800-462-7585 (TTY)
www.fema.gov

American Red Cross
1-866-438-4636

American Red Cross
(missing family
information)
1-877-568-3317

Social Security
1-800-772-1213
1-800-325-0778 (TTY)

Salvation Army
1-888-363-2769

Project Share a Home
1-888-827-2525

**LA Department of Social
Services (food stamps)**
1-888-524-3578

**LA Department of Labor
(unemployment assis-
tance)**
1-800-818-7811

This information provided by the State of Louisiana and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Message from Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

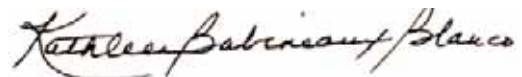
To all Louisianians who find themselves displaced by Hurricane Katrina:

Each of you are in my constant prayers. I won't rest until you return to your homes. I know you face great challenges in your new surroundings with uncertainty about your future. You have this promise from me: I am doing everything possible to bring you home and reunite you with your family and neighbors.

I know some of you question whether our state can recover from this tragedy. Because of my faith in God and my confidence in you, I know it will. Your courage and determination are inspiring millions of people who have stepped forward to embrace you and your family. My goals are the same as yours: restoring and rebuilding our communities, and bringing you home.

This newsletter is designed to serve as a helpful guide to getting the help you need in the difficult days ahead. May God bless you and strengthen you.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana

What are my housing options?

If your home is not habitable, ask your insurance agent if you have coverage for Alternate Living Expenses.

If you are in a shelter and can move into a better housing situation, do so. Take whatever steps you can to make yourself safe and secure, and still apply for FEMA assistance.

If you have no money and no friends or relatives to stay with, contact the American Red Cross, or go to a nearby shelter.

Even if you are staying with friends and family, you should still call FEMA. However, there is no FEMA reimbursement for host family and friends who take in victims.

If you are currently living in a hotel/motel and are running out of money, you should not be asked to leave. A letter was sent to area hotels/motels on behalf of FEMA and the American Red Cross stating that clients who have insurance coverage or who qualify for FEMA assistance should not be evicted.

When can I return home?

Your parish will let you know when it is safe to return home. This information will be shared as soon as it becomes available. Listen to radio and television, or read the local newspaper.

How can I reach family members?

Listen to news talk radio stations. Many are also providing this help. The American Red Cross is helping to locate family members. Call 1-877-568-3317.

How do I get FEMA assistance?

Register online at www.fema.gov or call 1-800-621-3362 -- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. FEMA does not charge for disaster services.

LA Department of Labor

To apply for Unemployment Insurance, obtain your UI check, seek Disaster Unemployment Assistance or find job opportunities, call 1-800-818-7811, or go to www.LAWORKS.net.

If you are in a shelter, Labor Department personnel will come to your site to assist you in filing for benefits. You can also visit any job center around the state.

LA Department of Social Services

Displaced citizens from one of the 25 eligible parishes who currently receive Food Stamp Benefits will automatically receive a full disaster allotment on their EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) cards Sept. 15.

Staying Healthy

If you have symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting or low-grade fever, drink plenty of water, rest and practice good hygiene, particularly washing hands to avoid spreading the illness. If you are experiencing severe symptoms, get medical attention – this is especially important for babies, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

Care Facilities

Those trying to find loved ones EVACUATED FROM HOSPITALS should call the Louisiana Hospital Association at 1-225-928-0026 or visit www.lhaonline.org.

Those trying to find loved ones EVACUATED FROM NURSING HOMES should visit the Louisiana Nursing Home Association website at www.lnha.org.

For information on:

Shelters, food stations, donated clothing, infant/baby goods, food boxes, medical, tree removal.....dial 2-1-1.

